

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

January 3, 2005
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall, Deputy Mayor Noble, and Councilmembers Balducci, Chelminiak, Davidson, Degginger, and Lee

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Noble opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m. and announced recess to Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss one item of labor negotiations and one item of potential litigation.

The meeting resumed at 6:56 p.m. with Mayor Marshall presiding.

2. Study Session

(a) Video-Streaming Project and Digital Cities Award

Toni Cramer, Chief Information Officer, reported that City Council meetings are now being broadcast live on the Internet via the City's web site at www.cityofbellevue.org. Meeting videos will be archived on an ongoing basis, and supporting documents and agenda materials will be available online soon as well.

Ms. Cramer presented Council with the 2004 Digital City Award, which ranks cities across the country according to their progress in using technology to deliver services to the community. Among cities of similar size, Bellevue placed 6th in the nation.

Councilmember Lee suggested providing more information regarding arts and cultural activities on the City's web site. Mayor Marshall concurred.

(b) Annual Concurrency Update

Kris Liljeblad, Transportation Assistant Director, introduced Jin Ren, Transportation Modeling Manager.

Mr. Liljeblad began the presentation of the annual transportation concurrency update. Concurrency is a tool to balance land development with funded transportation capacity and is required by the state Growth Management Act. Development can be denied if it causes traffic congestion and/or exceeds concurrency standards. The Traffic Standards Code outlines Bellevue's concurrency approach, which measures volume-to-capacity ratios for 104 system intersections in 13 mobility management areas (MMAs) during the two-hour PM peak period. The City's methodology documents existing conditions as reflected in V/C ratios and levels of service (LOS) and projects future levels of service based on permitted development and planned Capital Investment Program (CIP) projects.

Mr. Ren reviewed traffic volume trends for major arterials since 1997. In general, traffic volumes have decreased since 2000. He reviewed two-hour LOS counts for the 13 MMAs for 2002 and 2003. He summarized the permitted land use (Office, Retail, Other Commercial, Single Family, and Multifamily) for each MMA. Mr. Ren showed a comparison of concurrency system intersections' level of service in 2010 with and without planned CIP projects. Without CIP projects, seven intersections will exceed allowed congestion levels. The Downtown MMA will grow the most in terms of office, retail, and hotel development. All MMAs except the Newcastle MMA have reserve capacity, even without CIP projects.

With CIP projects, it is estimated that only three intersections will fail LOS standards. No MMA will exceed LOS standards and all have a reserve capacity of 14 to 41 percent. Seven MMAs will experience decreases in their V/C ratios due to capacity improvements.

Mr. Ren noted an overall decline in 2003 traffic volumes of one percent due primarily to the Access Downtown project and enhanced signal design, channelization, and timing. Additional CIP projects will help improve concurrency LOS, including 150th Avenue SE improvements, Forest Drive/Coal Creek, Factoria Boulevard, and intersection projects along 148th Avenue.

Mr. Liljeblad closed the presentation by noting that the standards for the Newcastle MMA, which exceeded LOS limits, are stricter and less tolerant of higher traffic levels than the standards for commercial areas. Land use growth in downtown Bellevue continues to be supported by transportation infrastructure.

Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. Liljeblad confirmed that the congestion allowance varies for each MMA. Similarly, a different number of intersection failures are allowed for each MMA.

Responding to Mr. Noble, Mr. Liljeblad said the LOS methodology applies only to signalized intersections. Data is collected for non-signalized intersections but their numbers are not included in average LOS counts.

Ms. Balducci noted the absence of signalized intersections along West Lake Sammamish Parkway and questioned how these traffic volumes are evaluated. Mr. Liljeblad said areas without signalized intersections are analyzed at an operational level by traffic engineering staff to identify issues associated with community character and public safety.

(c) Demonstration of Automatic External Defibrillator Device

Fire Chief Mario Trevino introduced Battalion Chief Mike Remington to describe the new automatic external defibrillator (AED) program. Mr. Remington explained that the apparatus are becoming increasingly available in public buildings and no training is necessary to use the equipment. Early defibrillation is critical in the treatment of cardiac arrest because for every minute that passes, the survival rate decreases by 7 to 10 percent. King County has one of the highest survival rates in the country for cardiac arrest at 35 percent. AEDs will be installed soon in City Hall, the Leavitt Building, and in a number of Parks facilities.

Mr. Remington said a variety of AED units are available, depending on a facility's or user's needs. The AEDs to be installed in City facilities perform an automatic self-check daily to ensure batteries and components are working properly. During an emergency, it will prompt the user through the proper placement of the apparatus and steps for using it. Mr. Remington demonstrated the use of the AED. It will not shock a patient unless the person is in need of defibrillation. The unit can also prompt a user through CPR instructions. Each unit costs approximately \$2,400. However, less expensive AEDs are available for personal use.

Parks and Community Services Director Patrick Foran said he looks forward to the placement of AEDs in park facilities. He thanked Joanne Nicolai, Risk Manager, for her role in implementing the program.

3. New Business

Mayor Marshall noted desk packet materials regarding the proposed redistricting of King County. She indicated a phone call from King County Councilmember Jane Hague today requesting input from the Bellevue City Council.

Referring to the options provided in the desk packet, Mayor Marshall expressed a preference for a minimum of three rural districts. She feels the rural districts proposed under options C and D are too large to be effectively represented by one individual. Deputy Mayor Noble and Councilmember Chelminiak concurred.

Regarding the question of whether Bellevue should continue to be represented by two Councilmembers or become its own district with one representative, Mr. Noble feels the current representation in two districts is more beneficial.

Mayor Marshall feels relationships and partnerships with neighboring cities are strengthened by sharing overlapping County Council representation. She suggested a structure providing four districts each for Seattle and the Eastside, as well as one district to the north and one to the south.

Responding to Dr. Davidson, Mrs. Marshall suggested providing input during the public hearing process this week.

Noting that Bellevue is the second largest city in the county, Mr. Degginger agrees that Bellevue should continue to be represented by a minimum of two County Councilmembers.

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Councilmember Lee requested an analysis from the City Manager and the Director of Intergovernmental Relations.

Deputy Mayor Noble suggested providing preliminary comments during the public hearings on January 5 or 6.

At 7:59 p.m., Mayor Marshall declared recess to the Regular Session.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

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